

Overall Research Environment

The Center for Disability Resources (CDR), South Carolina's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Services (UCEDD) is located within the University of South Carolina, School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics. The USC School of Medicine has a large infrastructure for research that includes a Research Office, faculty and professional staff dedicated to research, and linkages with the Health Science programs throughout the University. Dr. Richard Ferrante, Director of the SC UCEDD assures the research mission of the CDR is carried out through intramural and extramural collaborations and funding streams. The UCEDD has a dedicated Disability Librarian who works in the School of Medicine Library and provides access to print and electronic books and journals, audiovisual materials, and a variety of search engines. Finally, the UCEDD Research Director, Dr. Suzanne McDermott conducts research for the CDR and provides guidance and mentorship for the faculty involved in research projects. Dr. McDermott is Professor and Research Director in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. She is an expert in disability research and is the Project Director of the CDC funded Disability and Health Project. Dr. McDermott's research includes studies related to infants and their families and she will serve as my research mentor.

The South Carolina UCEDD has been working to improve the life of people with disabilities and their families for more than twenty-five years. The goal is to create an inclusive community where all people have choices to determine the course of their lives. The CDR works in partnership with others through training, community service and technical assistance, research, and information dissemination to advance a greater recognition of the abilities of all people and promote their full inclusion into every aspect of society. We function as a bridge to connect the knowledge, expertise and resources of the University to persons with disabilities and the service delivery systems of the community. We work in partnership with others to advance a greater recognition of the abilities of all people and promote their full inclusion into every aspect of society through the following methods:

The **GOALS** and the **Areas of Emphasis** for research are:

RESEARCH GOAL: To design, implement, and disseminate research related to the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

- **Areas of Emphasis:** (1) Early Intervention and Children with Special Health Care Needs (2) Positive Behavior and Other Supports for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (3) Employment of Adults with Developmental Disabilities (4) Health Care Access and Health Status for Children with Developmental Disabilities (5) Quality of Life for Individuals with Disabilities